

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1     1.     An apparatus for resisting the growth and spread of contaminants, the apparatus  
2           comprising:  
3           a.     a brush including a handle portion, wherein the handle portion is fashioned from a  
4                 contaminant resistant material;  
5           b.     at least one endcap including an aperture, wherein the aperture is fashioned to  
6                 receive the handle portion of the brush; and  
7           c.     an enclosure including at least one opening,  
8                 wherein the at least one endcap is fashioned to close the at least one opening, and further  
9                 wherein when the handle portion of the brush is inserted into the aperture and the at least one  
10                endcap is inserted into the at least one opening, the brush is entirely within the enclosure and  
11                configured such that the brush is not in contact with an inner surface of the enclosure.
- 1     2.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the handle portion of the brush is fashioned  
2           from a stainless steel material.
- 1     3.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein the handle portion of the brush includes an  
2           upper handle portion and a lower handle portion, wherein the lower handle portion is  
3           inserted into the aperture.
- 1     4.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 further comprising a set of bristles coupled to the  
2           upper handle portion of the brush with a crimp.
- 1     5.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the handle portion of the brush is fashioned  
2           from a plastic material.

1 6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the enclosure has a cylindrical shape,  
2 wherein the at least one opening is positioned at the end of the cylinder.

1 7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a  
2 contaminant resistant material.

1 8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a transparent  
2 material.

1 9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one opening and the at least one  
2 endcap have a round shape, further wherein the at least one endcap includes:  
3 a. a plug configured to be inserted into the at least one opening, wherein the plug is  
4 configured to substantially maintain sufficient contact with the inner surface of the  
5 enclosure; and  
6 b. filler material configured in the plug such that the aperture can be fashioned into  
7 the filler material.

1 10. An apparatus for resisting the growth and spread of contaminants, the apparatus  
2 comprising:  
3 a. means for brushing including means for holding, wherein the holding means are  
4 fashioned from a contaminant resistant material;  
5 b. means for closing including means for receiving, wherein the receiving means are  
6 fashioned to receive the holding means; and  
7 c. means for enclosing including at least one opening,  
8 wherein the closing means are fashioned to close the at least one opening, and further  
9 wherein when the holding means are inserted into the receiving means and the closing means are

1 inserted into the at least one opening, the brushing means are entirely within the enclosing means  
2 and configured such that the brushing means are not in contact with an inner surface of the  
3 enclosing means.

1 11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein the holding means are fashioned from a  
2 stainless steel material.

1 12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 11 wherein the holding means include an upper  
2 holding means and a lower holding means, wherein the lower holding means is inserted  
3 into the receiving means.

1 13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 12 further comprising a set of bristles coupled to the  
2 upper holding means with a crimp.

1 14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein the holding means are fashioned from a  
2 plastic material.

1 15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein the enclosing means have a cylindrical  
2 shape, wherein the at least one opening is positioned at the end of the cylinder.

1 16. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein the enclosing means are fashioned from a  
2 contaminant resistant material.

1 17. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein the enclosing means are fashioned from a  
2 transparent material.

1     18.    The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein the at least one opening and the closing  
2            means have a round shape, further wherein the closing means include:

- 3            a.     means for plugging configured to be inserted into the at least one opening,  
4                    wherein the plugging means is configured to substantially maintain sufficient  
5                    contact with the inner surface of the enclosing means to remain in place until  
6                    removed; and  
7            b.     means for filling configured in the plugging means such that the receiving means  
8                    can be fashioned in the filling means.

1     19.    A cosmetic brush for resisting the growth and spread of contaminants, the cosmetic brush  
2            comprising:

- 3            a.     a handle portion, wherein the handle portion is fashioned from a contaminant  
4                    resistant material; and  
5            b.     a set of bristles coupled to the handle portion of the cosmetic brush.

1     20.    The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 19 further comprising:

- 2            a.     at least one endcap including an aperture, wherein the aperture is fashioned to  
3                    receive the handle portion of the cosmetic brush; and  
4            b.     an enclosure including at least one opening,

5                    wherein the at least one endcap is fashioned to close the at least one opening, and further  
6            wherein when the handle portion of the cosmetic brush is inserted into the aperture and the at  
7            least one endcap is inserted into the at least one opening, the cosmetic brush is entirely within the  
8            enclosure and configured such that the cosmetic brush is not in contact with an inner surface of  
9            the enclosure.

1     21.    The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 19 wherein the handle portion of the cosmetic  
2            brush is fashioned from a stainless steel material.

- 1 22. The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 21 wherein the handle portion of the cosmetic  
2 brush includes an upper handle portion and a lower handle portion, wherein the lower  
3 handle portion is inserted into the aperture and the set of bristles are coupled to the upper  
4 handle portion of the cosmetic brush with a crimp.
- 1 23. The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 19 wherein the handle portion of the cosmetic  
2 brush is fashioned from a plastic material.
- 1 24. The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 20 wherein the enclosure has a cylindrical shape,  
2 wherein the at least one opening is positioned at the end of the cylinder.
- 1 25. The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 20 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a  
2 contaminant resistant material.
- 1 26. The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 20 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a  
2 transparent material.
- 1 27. The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 20 wherein the at least one opening and the  
2 endcap have a round shape, further wherein the endcap includes:  
3 a. a plug configured to be inserted into the at least one opening, wherein the plug is  
4 configured to substantially maintain sufficient contact with the inner surface of the  
5 enclosure to remain in place until removed; and  
6 b. filler material configured in the plug such that the aperture can be fashioned in the  
7 filler material.

1     28.     An enclosure for resisting the growth and spread of contaminants, the enclosure  
2             comprising:

- 3             a.       at least one endcap including an aperture, and  
4             b.       at least one opening,

5             wherein the at least one endcap is fashioned to close the at least one opening when the at  
6     least one endcap is inserted into the at least one opening, and further wherein the enclosure  
7     houses a brush having a handle portion, wherein the handle portion is fashioned from a  
8     contaminant resistant material.

1     29.     The enclosure as claimed in claim 28 wherein the aperture is fashioned to receive the  
2             handle portion of the cosmetic brush, and further wherein when the handle portion of the  
3             cosmetic brush is inserted into the aperture and the at least one endcap is inserted into the  
4             at least one opening, the cosmetic brush is entirely within the enclosure and configured  
5             such that the cosmetic brush is not in contact with an inner surface of the enclosure.

1     30.     The enclosure as claimed in claim 28 wherein the handle portion of the cosmetic brush is  
2             fashioned from a stainless steel material.

1     31.     The enclosure as claimed in claim 30 wherein the handle portion of the cosmetic brush  
2             includes an upper handle portion and a lower handle portion, wherein the lower handle  
3             portion is inserted into the aperture.

1     32.     The enclosure as claimed in claim 31 wherein a set of bristles are coupled to the upper  
2             handle portion of the cosmetic brush with a crimp.

1     33.     The enclosure as claimed in claim 28 wherein the handle portion of the cosmetic brush is  
2             fashioned from a plastic material.

1 34. The enclosure as claimed in claim 28 wherein the enclosure has a cylindrical shape,  
2 wherein the at least one opening is positioned at the end of the cylinder.

1 35. The enclosure as claimed in claim 28 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a  
2 contaminant resistant material.

1 36. The enclosure as claimed in claim 28 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a  
2 transparent material.

1 37. The enclosure as claimed in claim 28 wherein the at least one opening and the endcap  
2 have a round shape, further wherein the endcap includes:  
3 a. a plug configured to be inserted into the at least one opening, wherein the plug is  
4 configured to substantially maintain sufficient contact with the inner surface of the  
5 enclosure to remain in place until removed; and  
6 b. filler material configured in the plug such that the aperture can be fashioned in the  
7 filler material.

1 38. A method of producing an apparatus resistant to the growth and spread of contaminants,  
2 the method comprising:  
3 a. coupling a set of bristles to a handle portion of a brush, wherein the handle portion  
4 is fashioned from a contaminant resistant material;  
5 b. inserting the handle portion of the brush into an aperture of at least one endcap;  
6 c. fashioning an enclosure including at least one opening, and  
7 d. inserting the at least one endcap into the at least one opening,  
8 wherein the at least one endcap is fashioned to close the at least one opening, and further  
9 wherein when the handle portion of the brush is inserted into the aperture and the at least one

1 endcap is inserted into the at least one opening, the brush is entirely within the enclosure and  
2 configured such that the brush is not in contact with an inner surface of the enclosure.

1 39. The method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the handle portion of the brush is fashioned  
2 from a stainless steel material.

1 40. The method as claimed in claim 39 wherein the handle portion of the brush includes an  
2 upper handle portion and a lower handle portion, wherein the lower handle portion is  
3 inserted into the aperture.

1 41. The method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the handle portion of the brush is fashioned  
2 from a plastic material.

1 42. The method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the enclosure has a cylindrical shape,  
2 wherein the at least one opening is positioned at the end of the cylinder.

1 43. The method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a  
2 contaminant resistant material.

1 44. The method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a transparent  
2 material.

1 45. The method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the at least one opening and the at least one  
2 endcap have a round shape, further wherein the at least one endcap includes:  
3 a. a plug configured to be inserted into the at least one opening, wherein the plug is  
4 configured to substantially maintain sufficient contact with the inner surface of the  
5 enclosure to remain in place until removed; and



- 1           b.     filler material configured in the plug such that the aperture can be fashioned into  
2                     the filler material.

1     46.    An apparatus for resisting the growth and spread of contaminants, the apparatus  
2           comprising:

- 3           a.     a brush including a handle portion, wherein the handle portion is fashioned from a  
4                     stainless steel material and the handle portion of the brush includes an upper  
5                     handle portion and a lower handle portion;  
6           b.     a set of bristles coupled to the upper handle portion of the brush with a crimp;  
7           c.     at least one endcap including an aperture, wherein the aperture is fashioned to  
8                     receive the lower handle portion of the brush; and  
9           d.     an enclosure including at least one opening,

10           wherein the at least one endcap is fashioned to close the at least one opening, and further  
11           wherein when the lower handle portion of the brush is inserted into the aperture and the at least  
12           one endcap is inserted into the at least one opening, the brush is entirely within the enclosure and  
13           configured such that the brush is not in contact with an inner surface of the enclosure.

1     47.    The apparatus as claimed in claim 46 wherein the enclosure has a cylindrical shape,  
2           wherein the at least one opening is positioned at the end of the cylinder.

1     48.    The apparatus as claimed in claim 46 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a  
2           contaminant resistant material.

1     49.    The apparatus as claimed in claim 46 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a  
2           transparent material.

- 1     50.     The apparatus as claimed in claim 46 wherein the at least one opening and the at least one  
2           endcap have a round shape, further wherein the at least one endcap includes:  
3           a.     a plug configured to be inserted into the at least one opening, wherein the plug is  
4                   configured to substantially maintain sufficient contact with the inner surface of the  
5                   enclosure to remain in place until removed; and  
6           b.     filler material configured in the plug such that the aperture can be fashioned into  
7                   the filler material.